

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CARACA 04316 141914Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 USSS-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 DHA-02 L-03 SCCT-01 EB-07 COME-00 H-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

SY-05 PM-04 /082 W

----- 067289

P 141715Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2824

INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS CARACAS 4316

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS ASEC VE

SUBJ: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING-GOV STATES REASONS FOR  
PROHIBITING PUBLICATION OF KIDNAPPERS' DOCUMENTS

REF: CARACAS 4223

1. INTERIOR MINISTER OCTAVIO LEPAGE STATED APRIL 13 THAT THE GOV CONSIDERS THE PUBLICATION OF THE NIEHOUS' KIDNAPPERS ORIGINALLY COMMUNIQUE TO BE "INADVISABLE" BECAUSE THE SUBJECT MATTER IS "REAL WAR PROPAGANDA WHICH IS EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAW." LEPAGE FURTHERMORE SAID THE KIDNAPPERS' "BLUSTERING" COULD "CONFUSE AND INTIMIDATE A GOOD PART OF THE POPULATION," WHICH HE SAID LACKED THE ABILITY COMPREHEND THE DOCUMENTS FOR WHAT THEY ARE. LEPAGE CLAIMED THAT THE GOV IS NOT INTERESTED IN CONCEALING ANY OF THE ACCUSATIONS OR REVELATIONS IN THE COMMUNIQUE. HE POINTED OUT THAT BOOKS AND COLUMNS WITH EVEN WORSE CHARGES AGAINST POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO CIRCULATE FREELY HERE IN RECENT TIMES.

2. REFERRING TO THE GOV'S SUSPENSION OF CARACAS TELEVISION CHANNEL 2 FROM THE AIR FOR 72 HOURS (CARACAS 3670), LEPAGE  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 04316 141914Z

SAID THE MEASURE WAS "COMPLETELY JUSTIFIED." HE SAID A

GOVERNMENT CANNOT TOLERATE A SITUATION IN WHICH A COMMUNICATIONS MEDIUM ASSISTS, EVEN INVOLUNTARILY, IN THE SPREADING OF ILLEGAL PROPAGANDA. NEITHER CAN SUCH A MEDIUM, HE SAID, PERMIT ITSELF TO BE USED AS A "SOUNDING BOX" BY OUTLAW GROUPS WHO ARE "FANATICS OF VIOLENCE." LEPAGE CLAIMED THAT THE SUSPENSION WAS OPPOSED ONLY BY OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS SEARCHING FOR POLITICAL DIVIDENDS. LEPAGE SPECIFICALLY ACCUSED COPEI SENATOR LUIS HERRERA CAMPINS, WHO HAS CALLED THE GOV'S HANDLING OF THE NIEHOUS CASE ITS WORST FAILURE YET, OF ACTING FROM "STRICTLY PARTISAN REASONS, BECAUSE EVIDENTLY HIS ATTITUDE IS TO USE ANY PRETEXT TO ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT."

3. LEPAGE DENIED THAT HE WAS AT ALL PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF THE NIEHOUS CASE. HE SAID TIME IS CLEARLY NOT ON THE SIDE OF NIEHOUS' CAPTORS. LEPAGE STATED RATHER ENIGMATICALLY THAT IF THE KIDNAPPERS MANAGE TO COLLECT A RANSOM, "IN SPITE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM DECISION TO PREVENT IT, THEY WOULD SURELY RELEASE THE BUSINESSMAN, JUST AS THEY DID IN THE CASES OF ENRIQUE DAO, CARLOS DOMINGUEZ AND THE MOLINOS PALACIOS BROTHERS."  
SHLAUDEMAM

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, EXTORTION, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976CARACA04316  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760141-0990  
**From:** CARACAS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760464/aaaaccay.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 CARACAS 4223  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** oatisao  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by oatisao>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING-GOV STATES REASONS FOR PROHIBITING PUBLICATION OF KIDNAPPERS' DOCUMENTS  
**TAGS:** PINS, ASEC, VE, US, OWENS-ILLINOIL, (NIEHOUS, WILLIAM F)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006